

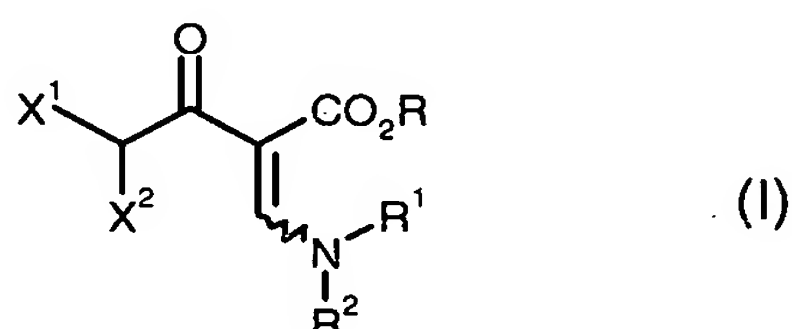
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please change the heading at page 18, line 1, from "Claims" to --WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:--

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

Claims 1-7 (canceled)

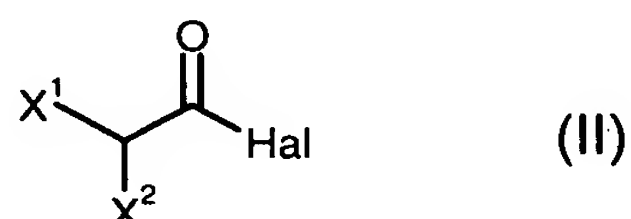
-- Claim 8 (new): A process for preparing 2-dihaloacyl-3-aminoacrylic esters of formula (I)



in which

R, R¹, and R² are each independently C₁-C₄-alkyl, and

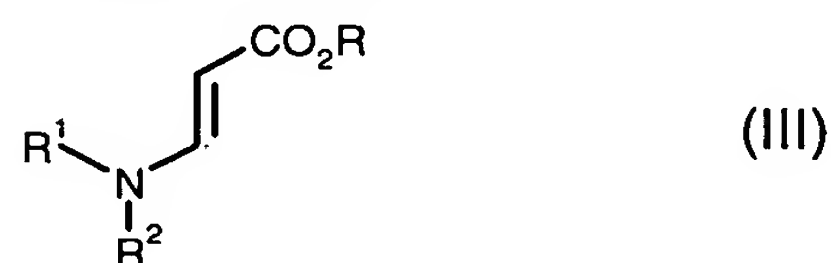
X¹ and X² are each independently fluorine, chlorine, or bromine, comprising reacting an acid halide of formula (II)



in which

Hal is fluorine, chlorine, or bromine, and

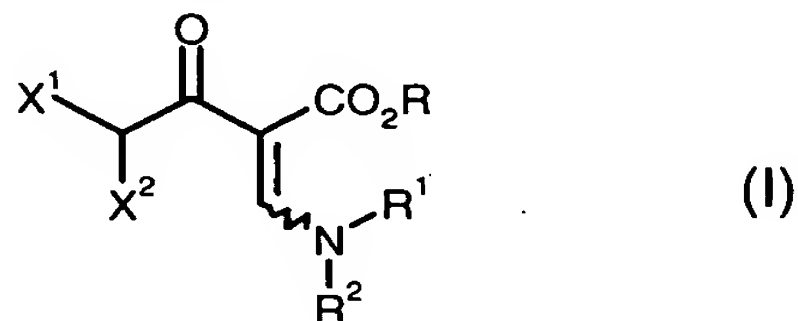
X¹ and X² are each independently fluorine, chlorine, or bromine, with a dialkylaminoacrylic ester of formula (III)



in which R, R¹, and R² are each as defined for formula (I), in a water-immiscible organic solvent in the presence of a base.

Claim 9 (new): A process according to Claim 8 wherein the base is pyridine, picoline, 2-methyl-5-ethylpyridine, 2,4,6-collidine, quinoline, or quinaldine.

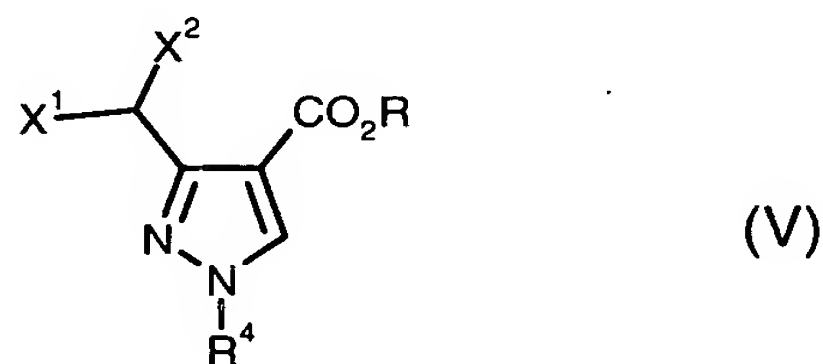
Claim 10 (new): A 2-dihaloacyl-3-aminoacrylic ester of formula (I)



in which

R, R¹, and R² are each independently C₁-C₄-alkyl, and
X¹ and X² are each independently fluorine, chlorine, or bromine.

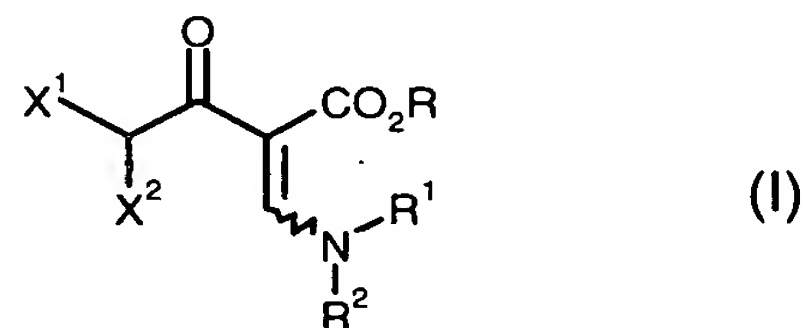
Claim 11 (new): A process for preparing 3-dihalomethylpyrazole-4-carboxylic esters of formula (V)



in which

R is C₁-C₄-alkyl,
X¹ and X² are each independently fluorine, chlorine, or bromine,
R⁴ is C₁-C₄-alkyl, hydroxy-C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₂-C₆-alkenyl, C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkylthio-C₁-C₄-alkyl, or C₁-C₄-alkoxy-C₁-C₄-alkyl, is C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkylthio-C₁-C₄-alkyl, or C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy-C₁-C₄-alkyl having in each case 1 to 5 halogen atoms, or is phenyl,

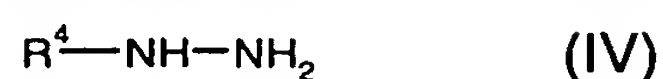
comprising reacting a 2-dihaloacyl-3-aminoacrylic ester of formula (I)



in which

R, R¹ and R² are each independently C₁-C₄-alkyl, and
X¹ and X² are each independently fluorine, chlorine, or bromine,

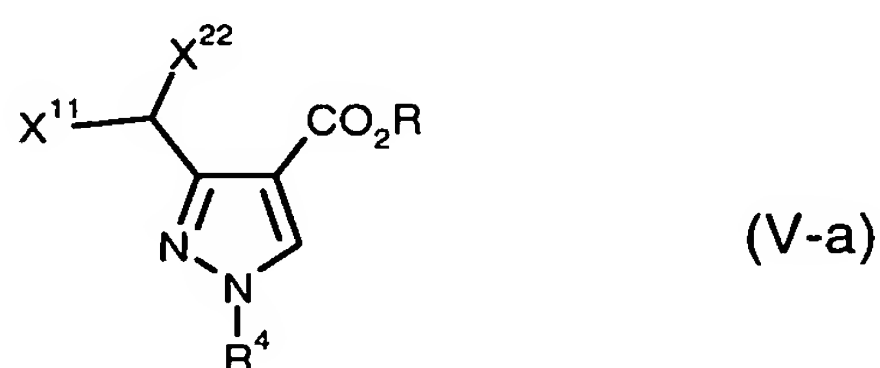
with a hydrazine derivative of formula (IV)



in which R^4 is as defined for formula (V),
at temperatures of -50°C to 0°C in the presence of an aprotic solvent.

Claim 12 (new): A process for preparing 3-dihalomethylpyrazole-4-carboxylic esters of formula (V) according to Claim 11 wherein the 2-dihaloacyl-3-aminoacrylic ester of formula (I) is prepared by the process according to Claim 8.

Claim 13 (new): A 3-dichloromethylpyrazole-4-carboxylic ester of formula (V-a)



in which

R is C_1 - C_4 -alkyl,

X^{11} and X^{22} are each chlorine,

R^4 is C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, hydroxy- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_2 - C_6 -alkenyl, C_3 - C_6 -cycloalkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkylthio- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, or C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, is C_1 - C_4 -haloalkyl, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkylthio- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, or C_1 - C_4 -haloalkoxy- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl having in each case 1 to 5 halogen atoms, or is phenyl. --